

Golden Horde's dynasty Bek-Sufi: history and genealogy issues

The history of the Golden Horde's dynasty Bek-Sufi was not the subject of the acute study, mainly the genealogy of Bek-sufi was discussed.

The first articles about Bek-Sufi appeared in connection with the finding of coins with his name, minted in the Crimea in 822, 823, 824 and 825. M.B.Severova in her article "On the name of Golden Horde's khan on the coins of the Crimea of 822 and 823 years" identified the coin Bek-Sufi with Bek-Sufi, a son of the Bektut from Tuk-Timurids. M.B.Severova considered, that if Bek-Sufi, Bektut's son, the son of Danishmend, the son of Bayan, the son of Tuk-Timur, the son of Juchi, the son Genghis khan lived till 823 year, it means that one generation in this dynasty was equal to 35 years. This assumption of M.V.Severova caused the criticism of the researches, but still was not appeared in the form of the article. There were two points of criticism:

1.The objection of the methodological character:

35 years for generation is a tension. It is necessary to use Occam's razor and assume not from beginning, but from the last known place which is close to the end of genealogical chain.

It is necessary to count from Tuk-Timur, Juchi's son, not from Genghis khan. If we assume, that Juchi died in early 1227, so Tuk-Timur was born before his death or during 1227. If we accept 1227 year as the date of his birth, so there 195 years for 5 generations or 39 years for one generation. If we consider that Tuk-Timur was born earlier, so it is possible that the amount of years will increase for generation.

2.The objection of the genealogical character:

35 years for generation means that Bek-Sufi and all his ancestors were younger and late children. It is scarcely probable, considering that due to Rashid-ad-din, Bayan was the second son of Tuk-Timur.

Bek-Sufi in Muizz and Nusrat-nam was a descendant of Juchi in the fifth generation, although Bek-Sufi ruled in 1419-1422 years. If we compare with other Juchids:

Berdibek, a descendant of Juchi in the seventh generation.

Kara-Nogay and Khyzyr, descendants of Juchi in the fifth generation, ruled in early 1360s.

Kaganbek and Arabshakh, descendants of Juchi in the sixth generation ruled in 1370s.

Urus and Toktamysch, the descendants of Juchi in the seventh generation ruled in 1369-1377 and in 1379-1395 respectively. The reign of Bek-Sufi, son of Berkut is very distracted from this line as all his genealogical peers died in 1360, while Bek-Sufi ruled in 1419-1922.

Summarizing, there is a brief summary about the life of representative of Golden Horde's dynasty Bek-Sufi: Bayan was the second son of Tuk-Timur, the thirteenth son of Juchi. In the time of troubles Khadzhibek, the son of Ipak, the son of Danishmend, the son of bayan owned Kyrker and participated in the battle with the Lithuanians at the Blue waters in 176. In the mid of 1370, before the escape of Toktamysch from Urus-khan, Khadzhi-bek marry off his daughter to Toktamysch. After Toktamysch's coming to the power, Bek-Sufi dynasty entered the political elite of the Golden Horde. Khadzhibek saved his ulus, Bek-Yaryk, the second cousin of Bek-Sufi obtained his ulus on the Don. Bek-Yaryk fought for Toktamysch in the war against Timur.

During the struggle for the power in Golden Horde Bek-Sufi dynasty did not approved themselves. In 1419 Idegey and dervish-khan were in the Crimea, Idegey erected Bek-Sufi on his place, a grand-uncle of Dzhanik's wife. After Idegey's death old Bek-Sufi could not win Devlet-berdi and his relatives together with Dervish khan's dynasty were forced to leave the Crimea. Barat-Sufi, Bek-Sufi's on migrated to eastern Deshti-Kipchak from the Crimea together with the relatives, where they lost power with Dervish-khan's dynasty, so their dynasty came in sight of authors Muizz-al-Ansab and Nusrat-name.